

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LUCCA, A DC SUCCESS STORY (WITH RESERVATIONS)

REF: FLORENCE 0013

1. SUMMARY. IN COURSE OF SHORT VISIT TO LUCCA, CONSULATE POLITICAL OFFICER SPOKE TO MAYOR OF LUCCA, PRESIDENT OF PROVINCE AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY. LUCCA HAS STRONG DC PARTY STRUCTURE WITH ADEQUATE PLURALITIES IN CITY AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS. CONSULATE CONTACTS GAVE HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REASONS FOR PARTY'S RELATIVE STRENGTH BUT PERSONALITIES AND POLICIES ALSO SEEM TO HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART. LUCCA FACES DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, WHICH WILL REQUIRE ATTENTION TO ENSURE HEALTH OF PROVINCIAL PARTY STRUCTURE. AN UNEASE, AMONG THESE LOCAL LEADERS, WITH US DEVELOPMENTS WAS NOTED WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE FACED. END SUMMARY

2. LUCCA'S SUCCESS. DURING SHORT VISIT TO LUCCA, INTERVIEWS WITH DC MAYOR FAVILLA, PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT BIOCCHI AND PROVINCIAL SECRETARY LICHERI WERE HELD. MAYOR FAVILLA EXPLAINED HIS LONELY POSITION AS ONLY DC MAYOR IN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN CONSULAR DISTRICT BY REFERENCE TO LUCCHESI HISTORY WHERE CITY HAD ALWAYS STOOD ALOOF FROM CURRENT OF TUSCAN POLITICS. HE ALSO NOTED THE FACT THAT PROVINCE RICH IN AGRICULTURE AND LACKING INDUSTRIALIZATION (ONLY ONE FACTORY WITH AS MANY AS 2000 EMPLOYEES) HAD RESULTED IN STABLE POPULATION WITH LITTLE

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IMMIGRATION INTO AREA. MANY LUCCHESI STILL MAINTAIN FARMS

WHILE WORKING IN CITY, WHICH CUSHIONS AREA AGAINST ECONOMIC RECESSION. ADDITIONALLY, LUCCA HAS SENT MANY OF ITS PEOPLE TO US AND SOUTH AMERICA AND MAYOR ESTIMATED 100,000 LUCCHESI IN CALIFORNIA AND 40,000 IN NEW YORK ALONE. VISITS FROM EMIGRANT FAMILY CONSTANT AND THIS MAKES AREA LESS PROVINCIAL THAN OTHER PARTS OF TUSCANY. FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY IN MAYOR'S VIEW, CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LUCCA STILL STRONG AND ACTIVE IN CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF COMMUNITY.

3. PARTY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY LICHERI, WHO IS ABOUT 35 YEARS OF AGE AND HAS BEEN SECRETARY SINCE THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS ELEVATED HIS PREDECESSOR TO THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, STATED THAT THE PARTY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN JUNE 1975 BECAUSE IT HAD HAD AN ALMOST COMPLETE TURNOVER IN PERSONNEL. HE STATED OF THE 620 NAMES PUT FORWARD IN THE LAST ELECTION, 444 HAD NEVER STOOD FOR ELECTION BEFORE. HE ALSO POINTED WITH PRIDE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF UNDER-30 CANDIDATES (88 UNDER 25 AND 68 FROM 25 TO 30 YEARS). THIS POLICY OF RENEWAL PLUS ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY OF MAYOR AND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT AIDED TICKET'S SUCCESS.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS. THREE LISTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED FOR REGIONAL CONGRESS IN PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS (AGAINST THE 10 THAT WERE PRESENTED IN 1973). TWO SUPPORT CURRENT PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI AND ONE AS JOINT DOROTEO-FANFANI (WITH THE LATTER PREDOMINANT). THE MAYOR BELIEVED THAT THE TWO ZACCAGNINI LISTS WOULD POLL OVER 50 PERCENT. HE FURTHER STATED ZACCAGNINI WOULD GO INTO NATIONAL CONGRESS WITH A COMMITTED SUPPORT OF 40 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES AND WOULD ATTRACT UP TO 30 PERCENT FROM OTHER FORCES. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY LICHERI AND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT BICOCHI, BOTH INVOLVED IN EFFORT TO DUMP REGIONAL SECRETARY BUTINI (REFTEL) WEREN'T SO OPTIMISTIC AS TO THEIR CHANCES (LICHERI HEADS ONE ZACCAGNINI LIST). THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD WIN A MAJORITY OF VOTES FOR THE TWO LISTS WITHIN THE PROVINCE BUT DIDN'T BELIEVE THE PRO-ZACCAGNINI BLOCK AT CONGRESS WOULD BE AS SOLID. LICHERI STATED THAT THEY HAD TRIED TO HAVE A UNIFIED LIST OF THE LEFT TO PROVIDE A CLEAR CHOICE BUT THAT THE MOROTEI AND FORZE NUOVE GROUPS WANTED TO HAVE THEIR OWN LISTS TO PRESERVE THEIR IDENTITY AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS. ALL THREE STRESSED THE NECESSITY TO HAVE NEW FACES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL NOTING THAT

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MUCH CHANGE HAD BEEN GOING ON AT THE PERIPHERY IN THE PARTY BUT THE NATIONAL IMAGE WAS STILL TAINTED BY THE PRESENCE OF FIGURES WHO HAVE HELD IMPORTANT PARTY ROLES FOR OVER 30 YEARS. THE MAYOR, IN COMMENTING ON MORO, SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE LEADERS WHO RADIATED CONFIDENCE AND ACTION BUT MORO HAD AN IMAGE OF INTENSE WEARINESS. HE THEREFORE WASN'T HAPPY WITH MORO AS A POTENTIAL PARTY SECRETARY WHICH SOME OTHER TUSCAN SOURCES HAVE INDICATED AS A POSSIBILITY.

5. LICHERI IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AND HIS FRIENDS AS THE IMPETUS FOR THE EFFORT TO OVERTHROW THE FANFANI LOYALIST BUTINI AS PARTY REGIONAL SECRETARY. HE INDICATED THAT OTHERS IN THE GROUP INVOLVED (THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES OF LIVORNO, PISA, MASSA CARRARA, SIENA) WOULD BE MEETING WEEK OF JANUARY 19 TO COORDINATE STRATEGY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHY THIS ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN AT SUCH A DELICATE TIME FOR THE PARTY AND THE COUNTRY, LICHERI STATED THAT IT WOULD BE A CLEAR SIGN FANFANI WAS DEFINITELY FINISHED WHEN HIS LOCAL DEPUTY WAS OVERTHROWN IN THE REGION MOST CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE SENATOR.

6. SOME WARNING SIGNS. ALTHOUGH THE PERSONALITIES ENCOUNTERED IN LUCCA ARE IMPRESSIVE WHEN MEASURED AGAINST OTHER DC POLITICIANS, THE VISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE RESEMBLES THE REST, A CRUMBLING BUILDING WITH HAND-ME-DOWN FURNITURE AND DISORDER EVERYWHERE. LICHERI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROVINCIAL DC HAD ONLY 2 SALARIED EMPLOYEES WHILE THE PCI WAS OPERATING WITH AROUND 40. HE STATED NONE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDING PAID TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES HAD REACHED LUCCA AND THAT LOCALLY THEY OPERATED ON THE 2 MILLION LIRE MONTHLY PAYMENT FROM ROME FOR RENT, UTILITIES AND THE SALARY OF ONE OF THE 2 EMPLOYEES. ALL THE OFFICIALS OF THE LOCAL PARTY (IN CONTRAST TO THE PCI WHICH PAYS THEIR OFFICIALS A SALARY) HAD TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN JOBS TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND WORK FOR THE PARTY IN THEIR SPARE TIME. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE DC CITY AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION HELPED WITH SERVICES.

7. BOTH THE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SUPPORT FROM YOUTH UNDER 30 WAS A PROBLEM. PREVIOUSLY THE CHURCH SPONSORED PARISH GROUPS (AZIONE CATTOLICA, ETCL HAD PROVIDED A RECRUITMENT SOURCE FOR THE DC BUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHURCH HAD ALLOWED THESE GROUPS TO DIE -- A FACT IT WAS NOW COMING TO REALIZE WAS A MISTAKE -- AND THE DC ITSELF HAD PROVIDED NO REPLACEMENT. WHEN BOTH MEN WERE ASKED WHAT THEY PLANNED TO DO ABOUT THIS ACKNOWLEDGED WEAKNESS AGAINST THE PCI EFFECTIVE ORGANIZING EFFORT, THEY ADMITTED THEY DID NOT KNOW.

8. ANOTHER PROBLEM NOTED BY PROVINCIAL SECRETARY WAS THE ALLOCATION OF REGIONAL FUNDS. HE STATED SPECIAL MONIES FOR PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL CITIES HAVE GONE TO LOCATIONS WHICH HAVE COMMUNIST REGIMES WHILE LUCCA (WHICH RETAINS ITS WALLS AND IS FULL OF HISTORIC CHURCHES AND PALACES) HASN'T RECEIVED ONE LIRA. HE CITED THIS AS ONE AREA IN A HOPED FOR DC POLITICAL PLATFORM IN THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD ESCHEW THE RHETORICAL ANTI-COMMUNISM WHICH HAD PROVEN ITSELF TO BE A COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT'S

USE OF FUNDS TO UNDERMINE THE LAST DC BASTION IN TUSCANY BY THIS NEGLECT IS YET AN ADDITIONAL WARNING TO THE LOCAL PARTY THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

9. ATTITUDE TOWARDS US. THE CONSULATE OFFICER NOTED IN THE ATTITUDE OF ALL THREE MEN (ESPECIALLY THE 30-YEAR OLD PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT) A HESITATION TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE U.S. BICOCCHI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD IN UNIVERSITY BECOME CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. POLICY IN VIETNAM AND STATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE U.S. TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM WITH HIS GENERATION. VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS FOR U.S. PRESENCE WITHIN THE PROVINCE IN THE FORM OF SPEAKERS, SHOWS, ETC. WERE POLITELY RECEIVED, BUT WITH LITTLE INTEREST. BICOCCHI DID REMARK IRONICALLY THAT EVERY DAY HE READ ABOUT THE CIA IN THE NEWSPAPER AND ALMOST FELT AS IF HE WERE A MEMBER OF THE US CONGRESS SINCE HE SEEMED TO HAVE ALL THE FACTS.

10. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE ABOVE THAT THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATION PROBLEMS OF THE US IN ITALY ARE NOT LIMITED TO AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNISTS. GORDON

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